



**Homeland  
Security**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE UNDER SECRETARY**

The Data Management Improvement Act Task Force, created by Congress in June 2000 and formally established in January 2002, is nearing completion of its second year of operation. During 2003, the Task Force has continued to fulfill its statutory mandates without pause throughout the transition period during which the Department of Homeland Security was established.

During this reporting period, the Task Force focused primarily on: Port-of-Entry (POE) facility and infrastructure issues and the development of recommendations to facilitate traffic flow; identifying and enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms among the public and private sectors, and state, federal and local agencies and affected foreign governments; and analyzing a variety of information technology systems within and outside the Department of Homeland Security, that support border management efforts from both a security and traffic facilitation aspect, as well as developing a conceptual border management system.

The Task Force, comprised of federal, state and local government officials and representatives from private sector organizations, has devoted a great deal of time and effort during the past year to fully understand the myriad and unique border management activities and issues, and has developed feasible, workable recommendations toward their enhancement and efficiency.

The detailed content of this year's report is indicative of the vested interest - on the part of the Task Force members and the industries and organizations for which they speak - in facilitating traffic flow at the POEs while strengthening and improving our national security.

A great deal of work has been completed by the Task Force over the past two years and their input will prove invaluable as we move forward in improving the various aspects of current border management activities and processes.

It is my distinct pleasure to deliver this report to Congress.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Asa Hutchinson", written over a horizontal line.

Asa Hutchinson  
Under Secretary  
Border and Transportation Security  
Department of Homeland Security